UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,576	02/22/2002	Peter Stutz	770P010688-US (PAR)	1984

2512	7590	01/18/2006

PERMAN & GREEN
425 POST ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

EXAMINER
ERB, NATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3639	

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/081,576	STUTZ, PETER
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nathan Erb	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) *4,14 and 16* is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>21 May 2002</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3-26-2002*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1.   The information disclosure statement filed 3-26-2002 fails to comply with 37 CFR

1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or

other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent

application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the

application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being

submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each

document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates

that the list is an information disclosure statement.

Not every page of the information disclosure statement is labeled with the applicant's

application number, as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1)(i). Not every page of the information

disclosure statement includes a heading indicating that it is an information disclosure statement,

as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1)(iii). The information disclosure statement fails to disclose

each inventor for each U.S. patent application listed, as required by 37 CFR 1.98(b)(3).

However, the information disclosure statement has been considered.

Drawings

2.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because

reference character "22" has been used to designate both the Internet and a LAN. Corrected

drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to

avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include

all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is

being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be

labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR

1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and

informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the

drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The Internet appears to have been intended to be labeled "23." Changing the label of the

Internet on the drawings from "22" to "23" should correct this problem.

3.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they

do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 12 (p. 5, line 31),

20A (p. 5, line 9), and 20B (p. 5, line 10). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR

1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any

amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate

prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet

submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either

"Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not

accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective

action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they

include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 12A (Figure 1),

12B (Figure 1), 15 (Figure 1), 10D (Figure 2), N3 (Figure 2), N5 (Figure 2), V1 (Figure 2), V2

(Figure 2), and V3 (Figure 2). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or

amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance

with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the

application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing

on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each

drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin

as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are

not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required

corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in

abeyance.

Specification

5.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

    a.   On p. 5, line 9, "20A" should be --10A--. Note this will also correct the 20A

problem noted in section 3 above.

    b.   On p. 5, line 10, "20B" should be --10B--. Note this will also correct the 20B

problem noted in section 3 above.

    c.   On p. 5, line 21, the phrase "other tan including mailpieces" is unclear and

appears to be a typographical error.

    d.   On p. 7, lines 2, 5, and 25, the reference number 22 is referred to using three

different terms, "vendor's web server," "LAN," and "vendors web site."

    e.   On p. 7, line 17, "system" should be --franking machine--.

    f.   On p. 8, line 10, "feature" should be --features--.

    g.   On p. 9, line 4, please remove the second occurrence of the phrase "to the." It

appears to be a typographical error.

Appropriate correction is required.

6.   The use of the trademark POWERPOST has been noted in this application. It should be

capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary

nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner

which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Objections

7.   The use of the trademark BLUETOOTH has been noted in this application. It should be

capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary

nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner

which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

8.   Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: "universal" should be

replaced by --uniform--. Appropriate correction is required.

9.   Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 14 is a duplicate of

claim 11. Appropriate correction is required.

10.   Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: The second occurrence of

the phrase "franking system" on the first line of the claim appears to be a typographical error. It

appears to have been intended to read --franking machine--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
> subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

12.   Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention. Claim 15 recites the limitation "the network node" in the second line of the claim.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

13.   Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention. Claim 16 recites the limitation "the vendor" in line 3 of the claim. There is

insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

14.   Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention. Claim 16 recites the limitation "the franking machine" in lines 4-5 of the claim.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

       Note that making the correction suggested in section 10 above would correct this

problem.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

15.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

16.   Claims 1, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Leon, U.S. Patent No. 6,381,589 B1, hereinafter referred to as Leon 1.

As per **Claim 1**, Leon 1 discloses a franking system comprising:

- a network controller (Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached to the

Internet or other networks. Woodcock et al., <u>Microsoft Computer Dictionary</u>, Fourth Edition,

Microsoft Press, Redmond, WA, 1999, p. 111, defines a controller as "A device on which other

systems rely for access to a computer subsystem. A disk controller, for example, controls access

to one or more disk drives, managing physical and logical access to the drive or drives."

Therefore, a network controller controls access to a network, and any computer attached to a

network must have a network controller. Thus, Leon 1 inherently discloses a network

controller.);

- and protocol stack software (Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached to

the Internet or other networks. Woodcock et al., p. 363, defines a protocol stack as "The set of

protocols that work together on different levels to enable communication on a network." In

column 7, 1st full paragraph, Leon 1 discloses a computer using communications software, the

type of software that would manage a computer's network communications. Therefore, any

computer connected to a network would have to deal with a protocol stack, and Leon 1 discloses

using software to perform such functions. Thus, Leon 1 inherently discloses protocol stack

software.);

- that allows the franking system to be connected to a local area network (Leon 1, column

4, lines 47-49);

- and communicate to any other system coupled to the local area network (Leon 1, Figure

1).

As per **Claim 10**, Leon 1 further discloses wherein the network controller is further

adapted to couple the franking system to a wide area network ("WAN") (column 4, lines 47-49).

As per **Claim 13**, Leon 1 further discloses wherein the WAN is a Satellite network

(column 4, lines 44-49).

As per **Claim 16**, Leon 1 discloses a franking system including:

- modules coupled in series (Woodcock et al., p. 295, defines a module as "a collection of

routines and data structures that performs a particular task or implements a particular abstract

data type." In column 7, 1st full paragraph, Leon 1 discloses software being used to accomplish

the functions of the system. Software contains modules. Leon 1, column 2, 1st full paragraph,

discloses the system performing functions, step-by-step, that is, in series. Therefore, the modules

that execute those functions in Leon 1 must be coupled in series.);

- within a configuration authorized by the vendor (Leon 1 inherently discloses this;

certainly the vendor would not participate in a system which operated in a way in which the

vendor did not approve.);

- and including a node controller (Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached

to the Internet or other networks. Woodcock et al., p. 312, defines a node as a device that is

connected to a network and is capable of communicating with other network devices. So, the

local computer in Leon 1 is a node. Woodcock et al., p. 111, defines a controller as "A device on

which other systems rely for access to a computer subsystem. A disk controller, for example,

controls access to one or more disk drives, managing physical and logical access to the drive or

drives." Therefore, a node controller controls access to the node, and any computer attached to a

network must have a node controller. Thus, Leon 1 inherently discloses a node controller.);

- and protocol stack software (Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached to

the Internet or other networks. Woodcock et al., p. 363, defines a protocol stack as "The set of

protocols that work together on different levels to enable communication on a network." In

column 7, 1st full paragraph, Leon 1 discloses a computer using communications software, the

type of software that would manage a computer's network communications. Therefore, any

computer connected to a network would have to deal with a protocol stack, and Leon 1 discloses

using software to perform such functions. Thus, Leon 1 inherently discloses protocol stack

software.);

- for coupling the franking machine to a LAN (Leon 1, column 4, lines 47-49).

As per **Claim 19**, Leon 1 further discloses wherein the system is adapted to download

funds via the local area network and an Internet connector from a secure funds server

(column 10, line 26, through column 11, line 13). Also, Figure 1 of Leon 1 discloses the Internet

connector.

As per **Claim 20**, Leon 1 further discloses wherein the system is adapted to be remotely

controlled via the local area network by a remote system (column 5, lines 24-26 [states that a

single machine can operate as both the local and host computer]; column 6, lines 28-36 [states

that various parts of the system can be located in different physical locations]). If the remote

host computer of Figure 1 of Leon 1 also performed the functions of the local computer of that

figure, then the system would be remotely controlled via the local area network by a remote

system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

18.   Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in view of

Watt, Peggy, "Operating System-Based 'Net Gateways Invite Intruders," Network World, April

10, 1995, pp. 6-7. Leon 1 fails to disclose wherein the network controller is adapted to allow a

peer system to be coupled to an internet connector through a gateway to the internet. Watt

discloses wherein the network controller is adapted to allow a peer system to be coupled to an

internet connector through a gateway to the internet (p. 1, last paragraph). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the

franking invention of Leon 1 such that the network controller is adapted to allow a peer system

to be coupled to an internet connector through a gateway to the internet as disclosed by Watt.

Watt provides motivation inherently because attaching a peer system to an internet connector

allows the peer system to communicate with devices over the Internet.

19.   Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in view of

Watt in further view of Murhammer, Martin W., Lee, Kok-Keong, Motallebi, Payam, Borghi,

Paolo, and Wozabal, Karl, IP Network Design Guide, International Business Machines, Research

Triangle Park, NC, June 21, 1999. Leon 1 fails to disclose the network controller being adapted

to use a communication protocol to a peer system. Watt inherently discloses a network

controller being adapted to use a communication protocol to a peer system (p. 1, last paragraph; a

device on a peer-to-peer net would have to have a network controller adapted to use a

communication protocol to a peer system in order to communicate with the peer-to-peer net). It

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to

modify the franking invention of Leon 1 such that the network controller is adapted to use a

communication protocol to a peer system as disclosed by Watt. Watt provides motivation

inherently because adapting a network controller to use a communication protocol to a peer

system allows the network controller's device to communicate with a peer system. Leon 1 and

Watt fail to disclose a communication protocol that includes any protocol on top of the network

controller protocol stack including the protocol utilized with a system web browser. Murhammer

et al. discloses a communication protocol that includes any protocol on top of the network

controller protocol stack including the protocol utilized with a system web browser (Section

1.1.2, see Figure 1 and the descriptions of the Application and Network layers). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the

invention of Leon 1 as combined with Watt above in this section such that the communication

protocol includes any protocol on top of the network controller protocol stack including the

protocol utilized with a system web browser as disclosed by Murhammer et al. Murhammer et

al. inherently provides motivation because such a modification allows one to use a Web browser

which can be used to view documents in the form used on the World Wide Web (Section 1.1.2,

see the description of the Application layer).

20.   Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in

view of Carroll et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0083018 A1.

As per **Claim 4**, Leon 1 fails to disclose further including one or more URLs for

identifying one or more servers that can be contacted by the system. Carroll et al. discloses

including one or more URLs for identifying one or more servers that can be contacted by the

system (paragraph [0024], lines 5-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the franking system of Leon 1 such that it

further includes one or more URLs for identifying one or more servers that can be contacted by

the system as disclosed by Carroll et al. Carroll et al. provides motivation because a URL acts as

a network address that allows a system to contact a specific location on a network (paragraph

[0024], lines 5-9).

As per **Claim 5**, Leon 1 further discloses wherein the network controller further includes

a web browser for accessing nodes on the internet with a URL (column 5, 1st full paragraph).

21.   Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in view of

Sidhu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,150,464. Leon 1 discloses a franking system comprising:

        - a network controller (Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached to the

Internet or other networks. Woodcock et al. defines a controller as "A device on which other

systems rely for access to a computer subsystem. A disk controller, for example, controls access

to one or more disk drives, managing physical and logical access to the drive or drives."

Therefore, a network controller controls access to a network, and any computer attached to a

network must have a network controller. Thus, Leon 1 inherently discloses a network

controller.);

- and protocol stack software (Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached to

the Internet or other networks. Woodcock et al., p. 363, defines a protocol stack as "The set of

protocols that work together on different levels to enable communication on a network." In

column 7, 1st full paragraph, Leon 1 discloses a computer using communications software, the

type of software that would manage a computer's network communications. Therefore, any

computer connected to a network would have to deal with a protocol stack, and Leon 1 discloses

using software to perform such functions. Thus, Leon 1 inherently discloses protocol stack

software.);

- for coupling the franking system to a first LAN (Leon 1, column 4, lines 47-49);

- to a system connected to the internet (Leon 1, Figure 1).

Leon 1 fails to disclose the system being connected to the network by a second LAN.

Sidhu et al. discloses a system being connected to a network by a second LAN (column 11, last

paragraph, through column 12, 1st sentence of 1st full paragraph). It would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to connect the LAN

disclosed in Leon 1 to the Internet via a second LAN as disclosed by Sidhu et al. Sidhu et al.

provides motivation because that would allow more than one LAN to be connected to the

network (column 11, lines 65-68).

22.   Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in view of

Sidhu et al. in further view of Woodcock et al. Leon 1 further discloses:

        - using a USB to connect devices, including a printer (column 4, lines 50-54);

        - using a computer as either a master or slave to outside devices (On p. 283, Woodcock et

al. defines a master/slave arrangement as "A system in which one device, called the master,

controls another device, called the slave." Therefore Leon 1 discloses using a computer as a

master in column 9, 1st full paragraph, where the local computer transmits a print command to

make a printer print. Leon 1 also discloses using a computer as a slave in column 5, lines 10-12,

where it states the local computer can be a terminal.)

        - a display for the system (column 5, lines 55-58);

        - and a LAN node (Woodcock et al., p. 312, defines a node as a device that is connected

to a network and is capable of communicating with other network devices. Leon 1 discloses a

LAN, as discussed in section 21 above. A LAN is a network, and official notice is hereby taken

of the fact that a network must have at least two connected devices which communicate with

each other. Therefore each of those devices would be a node, and disclosing a LAN also

inherently discloses a node.)

        Leon 1 and Sidhu et al. do not disclose further including a universal serial bus ("USB")

for coupling the system to a display, modem, keyboard and other franking system peripherals

including a LAN node. As stated above, Leon 1 discloses using a USB to connect devices and

discloses devices in the form of a display and a LAN node. Therefore, it would be obvious in

view of those disclosures to use a USB to connect a display and to connect a LAN node.

Woodcock et al. discloses using a USB to connect a system to a modem, keyboard, and other

peripherals (see definition of USB, p. 462). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

in the art at the time of applicant's invention to use the franking system of Leon 1 as modified by

Sidhu et al. as discussed in section 21 above with a USB connecting the system to a modem,

keyboard, and other peripherals, as disclosed by Woodcock et al. Woodcock et al. provides

motivation in that same USB definition in that connecting a system to devices using a USB

allows the system to transfer data with those devices.

23.   Claims 8, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon

1 in view of Leon, U.S. Patent No. 6,701,304 B2, hereinafter referred to as Leon 2.

        As per **Claim 8**, Leon 1 fails to disclose wherein the network controller is adapted to

couple the franking machine to a wireless network. Leon 2 discloses wherein the network

controller is adapted to couple the franking machine to a wireless network (column 4, lines 31-

34) (U.S. Patent 6,701,304). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of applicant's invention to modify the franking system of Leon 1 such that the franking

machine could be coupled to a wireless network as disclosed by Leon 2. Leon 2 inherently

provides motivation because a wireless network allows system to communicate without the need

for wire connectors.

        As per **Claim 17**, Leon 1 fails to disclose further including a configuration server coupled

to the LAN and including a data storage device including data identifying a vendor authorized

configuration for the franking module. Leon 2 discusses storing data on devices connected to the

network relating to the configuration of indicia to be printed and then retrieving that data as

needed from those devices (column 8, line 57, through column 9, line 13). Leon 2 inherently

discloses that the configuration is vendor authorized; presumably the vendor would not utilize a

configuration of which the vendor did not approve. Therefore, Leon 2 discloses further

including a configuration server coupled to the LAN and including a data storage device

including data identifying a vendor authorized configuration for the franking modules. It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to

modify the franking system of Leon 1 such that it further included a configuration server coupled

to the LAN and including a data storage device including data identifying a vendor authorized

configuration for the franking module as disclosed by Leon 2. Leon 2 provides motivation in

stating that such a configuration server and storage device allow for data for specific indicia to be

stored which can be changed for different countries, classes of mail, and indicia requirements

(column 8, line 57, through column 9, line 13).

As per **Claim 18**, Leon 1 fails to disclose further including a statistical server coupled to

the LAN and including a data storage device including franking rates of post office and

commercial couriers. Leon 2 discloses further including a statistical server coupled to the LAN

and including a data storage device including franking rates (column 7, lines 1-4). Official

notice is hereby taken of the fact that the post office and commercial couriers both deliver mail,

so it would be obvious to include franking rates of both in the data storage device. It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the

franking system of Leon 1 such that it further included a statistical server coupled to the LAN

and including a data storage device including franking rates of post office and commercial

couriers as disclosed by Leon 2 or made obvious by official notice. Leon 2 provides motivation

in that the franking rates allow the host computer to determine the proper amount of postage

(column 7, lines 6-9).

24.   Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in view of

Leon 2 in further view of Anonymous, "Wireless Cellular Phone Headset Introduced,"

Microwave Journal, International Edition, January 2000, p. 58. Leon 1 and Leon 2 fail to

disclose wherein the wireless network is a BLUETOOTH™ wireless network device.

Anonymous discloses wherein a wireless network is a BLUETOOTH™ wireless network device

(entire article). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

applicant's invention to modify the franking system of Leon 1 as modified by Leon 2 as

discussed in section 23 above such that the wireless network is a BLUETOOTH™ wireless

network device as disclosed by Anonymous. Anonymous provides motivation in that

BLUETOOTH™ is a future standard for wireless communication between devices (1st

paragraph, lines 2-3). Therefore, it would be presumably advantageous to have one's network

compatible with that technology.

25.   Claims 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Leon 1 in view of Woodcock et al.

        As per **Claims 11 and 14**, Leon 1 fails to disclose wherein the WAN is an ISDN

network. Woodcock et al. discloses an ISDN network (ISDN definition, pp. 249-250). It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to

modify the franking system of Leon 1 such that the WAN is an ISDN network as disclosed by

Woodcock et al. Woodcock et al. provides motivation in that an ISDN network is high-speed
(ISDN definition, p. 249).

As per **Claim 12**, Leon 1 fails to disclose wherein the WAN is a SONET network.

Woodcock et al. discloses a SONET network (SONET definition, p. 417). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the

franking system of Leon 1 such that the WAN is a SONET network as disclosed by Woodcock et

al. Woodcock et al. provides motivation in that a SONET network is high-speed (SONET

definition, p. 417).

26.   Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon 1 in view of

Vlosky, Richard P., Fontenot, Renee, Blalock, Lydia, "Extranets: Impacts on Business Practices

and Relationships," The Journal of Business & Industrial Marketing, 2000, Vol. 15, Iss. 6, p.

438. Figure 1 of Leon 1 shows the local computer attached to the Internet or other networks.

Woodcock et al., p. 312, defines a node as a device that is connected to a network and is capable

of communicating with other network devices. So, the local computer in Leon 1 is a node.

Therefore, Leon 1 further discloses a network node. Leon 1 fails to disclose a Web browser

accessing an intranet web server via the internet. Vlosky et al. discloses accessing an intranet via

the internet (p. 2, section entitled "Extranets"). Official notice is hereby taken of the fact that

when exchanging information over the Internet, it is common for a Web browser to be used to

access a Web server. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

applicant's invention to modify the franking system of Leon 1 such that a Web browser connects

the franking system to an intranet web server via the internet as disclosed by Vlosky et al. and

official notice. Vlosky provides motivation in that such an arrangement allows an organization

to allow its partner organizations to view information on its intranet that is otherwise not

available to outside parties (p. 2, section entitled "Extranets").

Conclusion

27.   **Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited particular portions of the references as applied to

the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are

representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the

individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that

the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially

teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by

the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

28.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Nathan Erb whose telephone number is (571) 272-7606. The

examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 AM to 5 PM.
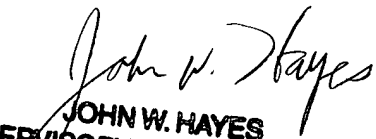
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

                                        Nathan Erb
                                        Examiner
                                        Art Unit 3639

nhe

JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER